United Nations E/AC.51/2015/L.4/Add.10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
24 June 2015

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fifth session
1-26 June 2015
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Joseph Marie **Fouda Ndi** (Cameroon)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(Item 3 (b))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals: lessons learned for the post-2015 era

1. At its 11th meeting, on 9 June 2015, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the thematic evaluation of monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals: lessons learned for the post-2015 era (E/AC.51/2015/3).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Some delegations commended OIOS for the preparation of the important evaluation report, noting that it should be given careful attention. It was indicated that the outline of the disparate Millennium Development Goal monitoring and evaluation components, as well as the development of the thematic impact pathway depicting the relationships between Millennium Development Goal evaluation activities and outputs, was particularly valuable. Other delegations expressed the view that the report went beyond the expected thematic evaluation of monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and that some of the advantages, disadvantages, conclusions and recommendations in the report

15-10504 (E) 260615

Please recycle

prejudged the possible outcomes of ongoing intergovernmental processes. One delegation stressed that the report promoted and endorsed an approach to monitoring and evaluation that was definitely premature, considering that the post-2015 development agenda intergovernmental process had not been concluded yet and a proper mandate was required before action could be taken. Some delegations asked how the evaluation was to be used by Member States and expressed serious doubt about endorsing the recommendations contained in the report.

4. Some delegations noted that the terminology used in the report was not consistent with that which Member States were inclined to use: the report referred to "monitoring" and "evaluation" while Member States had been speaking of "follow-up" and "review", as reflected in General Assembly resolution 67/290.

5. One delegation underlined that follow-up and review functions would lie primarily with the high-level political forum on sustainable development that had been established pursuant to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and that any United Nations system framework should abide by parameters set by Member States within that forum.

6. General conceptual questions were raised regarding the parameters of a useful monitoring and evaluation mechanism; the type of progress indicators to be developed (current, clear, accessible and useful); the statistical entities responsible for submitting data; the stakeholders involved (Member States, national authorities, external organizations and/or United Nations entities); and the goals to be evaluated.

7. Some delegations raised specific methodological questions and sought further clarification regarding the stakeholders interviewed by OIOS during the preparation of the report and the information presented in figure I of the report.

8. One delegation noted that reference was made in the OIOS report (E/AC.51/2015/3, para. 7) to six elements, namely dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice and partnership, which had been proposed in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (A/69/700); that delegation recalled that those six elements had not yet been embraced by Member States and that alternatives were being discussed in the intergovernmental processes.

9. One delegation took note of the disparate and ad hoc monitoring and evaluation components for the Millennium Development Goals that were presented in the report. Some delegations observed that that was an opportunity to look back, analyse past experiences and build on existing know-how and institutional architecture to avoid duplication. In that regard, one delegation underlined the importance of avoiding administratively burdensome monitoring systems.

10. One delegation underlined the importance of establishing effective evaluation and monitoring mechanisms at the onset of the framework for the sustainable development goals and noted that the fundamental principles for the framework should be accountability, consistency, interconnectedness, coordination, transparency, flexibility and utility (lessons 2 and 7). Another delegation emphasized the need for clear, adequate and internationally agreed achievement indicators for each target within the sustainable development framework. Such indicators should make it possible to effectively monitor trends, direct policy interventions and make timely

formative interventions. The latter was of the utmost significance, since determining the need for mid-term corrections was crucial to maximizing effectiveness in the achievement of the desired outcomes. One delegation stated that the credibility and effectiveness of the framework would be based on fundamental principles such as national ownership, capacity development, inclusiveness, transparency and consistency in linkages at the national, regional and global levels (E/AC.51/2015/3, para. 35).

11. Delegations emphasized the need for internationally agreed achievement indicators within the sustainable development framework, which would allow for the effective monitoring of trends and for direct policy interventions while taking into account local or regional contexts in comparing progress in different countries. It was stressed that conducting regular meta-evaluations should provide constructive lessons for the future strengthening of evaluation capacity. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation information should be made publicly accessible to maximize knowledge-sharing, transparency and openness, as well as to allow for an effective feedback mechanism benefiting all the stakeholders.

12. Delegations underlined the important role foreseen for the United Nations regional commissions in the post-2015 development agenda (E/AC.51/2015/3, para. 35) and recalled that the commissions were establishing regional forums according to the regional circumstances, needs and priorities (for example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was undertaking consultations to establish a regional forum on sustainable development). Those regional platforms were expected to conduct the follow-up and review of the implementation of the sustainable development goals at the regional level. Those regional modalities should not be predetermined at the global level, as there was no "one size fits all" formula.

13. One delegation sought further clarification on the role and the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and on the OIOS proposal on comprehensive evaluation reports being prepared by a variety of stakeholders at five-year intervals (E/AC.51/2015/3, paras. 58 and 59).

14. Delegations welcomed the report's emphasis on strengthening national capacities and local stakeholders in the area of statistics and evaluation through a monitoring and evaluation framework (lesson 5). One delegation underlined the particular importance of increasing United Nations support to countries in terms of harmonizing statistics at the national, regional and global levels and of increasing the speed in providing results and analysis. Another delegation stressed that for those efforts countries would require resources to finance such activities.

15. Delegations welcomed progress made in areas such as gender parity and the reduction of poverty but observed that many countries had not been successful in achieving the Millennium Development Goals or in implementing activities within that framework (as well as other international targets such as those in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development), largely due to a lack of resources or contributions from donors (lesson 6). One delegation sought clarification regarding the focus of the report on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and Asia, and asked about the progress made in the rest of the world.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee acknowledged the specific lessons learned that were identified in the OIOS report entitled "Thematic evaluation of monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals: lessons learned for the post-2015 era" (E/AC.51/2015/3).**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation in the OIOS report on the thematic evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals, while observing that the recommendation did not constitute a formal input for the ongoing negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda.**